

## URBAN-RURAL TYPOLOGIES FOR EUROPEAN CITIES

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### ABSTRACT

Researches on sustainability have improved very much in the last years, yet the limit still seems to be in the implementation.

There is a recognized problem that public administration's structure is often not fully up to date, compatible and easily adaptable to match the contemporary requirements of sustainability.

It is predicted that nearly all future population growth will occur in cities and by 2050, over two-thirds of the world's population will live in urban areas.<sup>1</sup>

Although European population is not growing with at the same pace as in Asia or Africa<sup>2</sup>, it is a known fact that European cities are sprawling.<sup>3</sup>

This is why the most pressured areas are the ones on the urban-rural interface, where due to urban development the landscape is rapidly and drastically changing, which implies a series of consequences from an economic, social and environmental point of view.

This has already been seen comparing the results from the Corine Land Cover.<sup>4</sup>

For this reason the European Union has started many initiatives to tackle this problem.

From policies such as the Energy 2020, to the Espon Typologies, much has been done on a National and Regional level.

The EU has recognized the new form of the urban-rural condition and has developed a Urban-Rural Typology for the NUTS 3 regions<sup>5</sup>. This is an important step towards the recognition and definition of the challenge, yet still remains on a scale beyond the municipal one.

This appears to be a problem as the everyday decision making on the land use and the urban development are mainly a task of municipalities, who, apart from some best practices mainly in Capital cities, have not yet built up the capacity and the know-how to fully tackle the problem.

This paper aims at defining the requirements of Urban-Rural Typologies for European Cities.

The focus will be to identify the sort of data is necessary to have the information in a multilayered GIS map<sup>6</sup>, to picture the fringe situation beyond density grids.

**Keywords:** *Sustainability, Urban-Rural, Europe, Typology, multi-layered mapping.*

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<sup>1</sup> UN Habitat 2006

<sup>2</sup> EEA (European Environment Agency): State and outlook 2010

<sup>3</sup> EEA Report No 10/2006: Urban sprawl in Europe

<sup>4</sup> CORINE (Coordination of information on the environment) is an EU initiative gathering information relating to the environment on certain priority topics

<sup>5</sup> NUTS 3: The Administrative Local Unit, with population between 150.000-800.000 inhabitants. In most European cases this coincides with Provinces.

<sup>6</sup> GIS: Geographic Information System